(a) whether it is a fact that a rally was organised by National Confederation of SC/ST Organisations on 26th July, to press Government to consider the long pending demands of SC/ST Employees;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a memorandum was submitted to this fact to the Hon'ble Prime Minister; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA) : (a) to (c) A letter dated 10-7-93 from the Hon'ble M.P. addressed to the Prime Minister informing him that a rally would be organised on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament in favour of the demands of the National Federation of SC/ST organisations was received. A reply has since been given to the Hon'ble M.P.

Ignoring the Advice of UPSC

2228. SHRI MOHAMMAD AFZAL *ALIAS* MEEM AFZAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of cases in which the advice given by the Union Public Service Commission has been ignored during the 1991-92; and

(b) what the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b) The Report of the UPSC is being finalised and will be laid on the Table of the House.

2229. [Transferred to 20th August, 1993]

2230. [Transferred to 20th August, 1993].

National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in Social Welfare Sector

2231. SHRI IQBAL SINGH :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a national water supply and sanitation programme was introduced in social welfare sector in the year 1954;

(b) if so, whether Government feels that rural water supply schemes are being implemented as per the requirements;

(c) whether after 1954 Central Government introduced an accelerated RWSP in 1972-73;

(d) if so, whether even after introducing the scheme, the water supply in rural areas have not improved;

(e) if so, whether the water shortage still continues in the rural areas; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Out of 1,61,722 identified problem villages as on 1-4-1985, all except 733 no source problem villages have been provided safe drinking water facilities fully or partially as per the prescribed norms as on 30th June, 1993. These left over no source villages in the States of Assam, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh are likely to be provided safe drinking water facilities by 31-3-94, with the special central assistance already provided to most of these States and by utilising normal plan funds under Minimum Needs Programme and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

(f) The above villages could not be covered so far due to inaccessibility, limited working season, lack of adequate infrastructure and longer time required for completion of piped water supply schemes/gravity feed schemes.

Identification of Families for Poverty Alleviation

2232. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have any plans for correct identification of families which constitute the target group for poverty alleviation;

(b) whether a number of changes were introduced in 1991-92;

(c) whether it is a fact that the purchasing committees in 50 per cent of the blocks have been abolished and the abolitions for the remaining block is also under consideration; and

(d) if so, to what extent this decision has helped in improving the implementation of I.R.D.P. programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) The Central Government lays great stress on correct identification of families which constitute the target group for poverty alleviation. A fresh household survey was initiated at the beginning of the 8th Five Year Plan to identify families living below the revised poverty line of Rs. 11,000. Instructions were issued to all State Governments during 1991-92 and 1992-93 regarding correct selection of families constituting the target group for IRDP. The Below Poverty Line (BPL) families survey has been completed in a large number of states and is likely to be completed in the remaining States shortly.

(b) and (c) Changes are introduced from time to time with the objective of improving implementation and enhancing the efficacy of the IRDP. One such change introduced in 1991-92 was the decision to abolish Purchase Committees in at least 50% of blocks identified by the District Coordination Committee (DCC). However, if the DCC feels that cash disbursement should be introduced in all the blocks that could also be done provided adquate safeguards are ensured. The Cash Disbursement Scheme is presently under operation in 46% of the blocks in the country.

(d) As per the feedback received from the State Governments, it was found that this system eliminated to a lagrge extent leakages through middlemen/dealers and at the same time give the beneficiaries requisite freedom to negotiate the price to purchase asset of their choice.

Nation Wide Survey on Drinking Water

2233. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether during 1991-92 all States and Union Territories were asked to carry out nation wide survey on the status of drinking water in rural habitation covering all aspects on drinking water supply;

(b) if so, whether this data has been obtained and submitted to Government;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) how many areas in Punjab are there which are without drinking water facilities and what steps are being taken to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The survey data is being compiled, processed and computerised. The final results have not been made available so far. However, the newly identified 'no source'/partially covered villages/habitations will be provided safe drinking water facilities during the Eighth Five Year Plan under the on going plan schemes of State Sector Minimum Needs Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and the activities under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.

2234. [Transferred to 24th August, 1993].

उत्तर प्रदेश में बंजर भूमि के विकास हेतु स्वैच्छिक संगठनों का पता लगाया जाना

2235. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश में बंजर भूमि के विकास-कार्य में संलग्न स्वैच्छिक संगठनों का पता लगाया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन संगठनों के नाम क्या हैं ;

(ग) उनकी सेवाओं का कब से उपयोग किए जाने की संभावना है ; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इस बात को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इन स्वैच्छिक संगठनों द्वारा पहले किए गए कार्यों की समीक्षा की है कि कहीं इन संस्थाओं पर सरकारी निधियों का दुरूपयोग का आरोप तो नहीं लगाया गया है ?

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय (परती भूमि विकास विभाग) में राज्यमंत्री (कर्नल राम सिंह) : (क) राष्ट्रीय